

**RM of Springfield Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 7, 2021**

WITHOUT PREJUDICE (E&OE)

There was no Council Meeting scheduled for this date but the Agenda for the meeting to be held on December 14, 2021 has a very large agenda with items that require, in my opinion, discussion. Therefore I am addressing some issues that I feel require review by Council of the RM of Springfield while they, obviously, do not think these matter are urgent.

SAVE OUR WATER (www.saveourwaterspringfield.com)

On December 16, 2021, the Province approved the location of a Silica Sand Processing Plant at Vivian on land that has been cleared in preparation since Spring. Because of the preliminary work on the part of CanWhite, it seems obvious that the approval of the mining of the silica sand was a foregone conclusion. Both the mining and the plant should have been one application but the plant was considered by the Province before the mining which makes no sense to me. A group of Springfield residents, including myself, formed the Springfield Taxpayer Rights Corporation to attempt to put a stop to the CanWhite Sands proposal to mine silica sand from 200 ft. below the surface of the land and build a processing plant in Vivian, Manitoba. This proposal would put the Sandilands Aquifer at risk of potential contamination. Further it will forever change the nature of the quiet hamlet of Vivian and increase traffic on the CN main line east. A clearing in the natural forest has already been made for a CN Spur Line to circle the plant. The group held three information sessions, the first at the Anola Community Club on December 1, the second at Cooks Creek Community Centre on December 7 and the last at the Dugald Community Club on December 9, 2021 at which Dennis LeNeveu spoke of the potential threat to our potable water supply that can and will occur if silica sand in a slurry is brought to the surface from 200 ft. down in the Sandilands Aquifer, the sand extracted, and the water now contaminated by exposure to the environment returned to the aquifer. CanWhite Sands itself has stated this is a new process never before tried but seemingly appears willing to assure residents that no harm will come to the aquifer as a result. **HOW CAN THEY BE THAT DEFINITIVE IF IT IS AN UNTRIED PROCESS.** Those who attended the meetings appeared to be very concerned. I sincerely hope their concern will result in ACTION....BY THAT I MEAN...we must all write, phone, email, contact in whatever way, the Premier, the Clean Environment Commission, the Municipal Board, the Ombudsman, their elected MLAs and MPs...anyone who has the power and authority to stop this initiative. **NUMBERS RULE!!!!!!** The greater the outcry, the more chance of putting an end to CanWhite's plans. There is an article in the December 13, 2021 Winnipeg Free Press about the Wanipigow Sand Project by Canada Premium Sand, who, like CanWhite Sands, try to convince us that all this sand will be used for is computer and tv screens, lab glassware, etc, not fracking of oil and gas. I would suggest that is not true. It will go to the highest bidder...for the greatest return on investment. While contamination of our drinking water is number one concern in my books, there were other negative effects of all this mining beneath the earth. As Mr. LeNeveu pointed out, when you remove something, you leave a cavity and eventually what is above that space will collapse to fill the void. In simple terms, the surface land will sink into the holes. This will not happen immediately but contamination of the aquifer could. I urge everyone to take the time to protest to whatever politician or body they can think of, and now, don't wait. **IT IS EASIER TO STOP AN EVENT HAPPENING THAN DEAL WITH THE EVENT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES AFTER IT IS ESTABLISHED.** Attached once again is our publication that explains the potential threat and gives contact information and 2 articles written in this regard.

SPRINGFIELD POLICE SERVICE

As mentioned in my Council notes November 2, 2021, Springfield is one of only, I believe two, in the Province of Manitoba that have their own police service as well as the RCMP which is provided to the Province by the Federal Government. **The RCMP is funded by the Federal Government.** The Springfield Police Service are there to enforce our municipal by-laws but are also capable of dealing with criminal matters and enforcing the Highway Traffic Act. **SPRINGFIELD POLICE SERVICE costs Springfield ratepayers approximately half a million dollar annually in their Property Taxes not counting the purchase of vehicles and specialized equipment.** I recall that some time ago, I believe in 2019, Councillor Fuhl appeared before the Police Board with a gentleman who, while being robbed of I think his ATV or some such large item, phoned the RCMP to report what was happening but **they did not respond until 2 days after the robbery** when they appeared at his home to ask for details of the event. The gentleman, I seem to remember, was **not even aware that the RM of Springfield had its own Police Service.**

Below is an excerpt of a speech by the Police Board Chair, Anne Wowchuk, which is in the Minutes of the March 11, 2020 Police Board Meeting minutes.

It can be said that 2019 was a year of transition. I, as well as all the Board members have been supportive of the Springfield Police Service. As Peter has mentioned in previous meetings, the Board members have been in meetings since the spring of 2019 with the Department of Justice, Police Commission Office, Council, the RCMP police and Springfield Police Service; in November 2019 the Board made a formal recommendation to council to enter into an agreement with the RCMP to have the Springfield Police Officers work closer together, be able to share information, and have full access to their office, computer system, dispatch, and monitoring system and the training would also be available to the Springfield Police Service Officers. This agreement will bring less risk and liability to the municipality and the Springfield Police Service officers. This agreement will enhance the policing service to the residence of Springfield. In December 2019, the municipality agreed to enter into an agreement with the RCMP. Presently the details of the agreement are being discussed; the board is pleased to announce that an agreement will soon be signed, once the agreement is finalized the public will be made aware of its contents. This agreement does not cost the municipality any more money than what they were contributing to the Police Services. There was a previous licensed agreement allowing Springfield Police Service Officers to have access to the RCMP building but only one officer met the requirements. This licensed agreement expired February 2020.

On Wednesday December 8, 2021, I e-mailed Anne Wowchuk, the chair of the Springfield Police Board, and asked her to please forward me a copy of the agreement. Very shortly thereafter Ms. Wowchuk responded by saying "Good afternoon Heather, I am unable to forward the

agreement that was entered upon between the RCMP Police and the RM of Springfield regarding the working partnership between the Springfield Police Service and the local RCMP Police detachment. The agreement is an RCMP Police document. I do not have the authorization to release it. I suggest you contact the RCMP Police for a copy." I first contacted D Division which is the Headquarters of the RCMP in Manitoba but they said I would have to contact the Detachment. I telephoned and spoke to the Staff Sergeant, Cst. Sookermanny, who **refused to provide me with a copy of the agreement or to even give me the correct spelling of his surname. This seems to contradict Ms. Wowchuk's assertion that "the public will be made aware of its contents".** Further I cannot understand how having the SPS do the calls that go to the RCMP **"enhance the policing service". The RCMP are supposed to provide detachments with a sufficient number of officers to service the needs of the area they serve.** For years at AMM Conventions the Council has met with the RCMP and asked for more members for Springfield TO NO AVAIL. I cannot remember whether it was the City of Steinbach or the RM of Hanover who several years ago pressured the RCMP to provide more members to serve their area and as a result, the RCMP provided additional officers to enhance their coverage of that community.

The agenda of the December 14, 2021 Council meeting has the Department Reports. Upon examining the Springfield Police Department Report, again I find the following calls **dispatched by the RCMP** that the Springfield Police Service attended:

October 28, 2021	Stranded Person Oakbank Drug Overdose Oakbank Static 911
October 30, 2021	Assist Winnipeg Police Service Theft Under \$5,000 Highway 207
October 31, 2021	Residential Alarm 911 Hang Up Oakwood Road Animal Complaint Oakbank 911 Static Call Springfield Road
November 1, 2021	Weapons Complaint, Monominto Pits Abandoned Vehicle Pit Road Theft of Vehicle Hwy 302 Kidnapping Hwy 1 Deacons Corner Assault Hwy 1 Deacons Corner
November 2, 2021	Curfew Check Oakbank
November 6, 2021	Medical Overdose Anola Public Mischief Anola Theft Deacons Corner
November 7, 2021	911 Static Call Theft Meadowcrest Road Suspicious Vehicle Hwy 15 Theft Deacons Corner Mischief Under \$5,000 Fermor Road Traffic Complaint Hwy 207
November 8, 2021	Child Welfare Act Springfield COVID Compliance Boundary Road
November 10, 2021	Break & Enter, Highway 15, Anola Mental Health Act, Transcona
November 11, 2021	Alarm Murdock Road
November 12, 2021	Motor Vehicle Collision
November 13, 2021	Check Well Being Deacons Corner Alarm Plessis Road
November 14, 2021	Motor Vehicle Collision Deacons Corner Panic Alarm Oakbank Littering, Wenzel Road
November 15, 2021	Fire, Transcona Suspicious Vehicle, Springfield Mental Health Act, Oakbank
November 16, 2021	Static 911 Domestic Oakbank
November 17, 2021	Commercial Alarm, Transcona Motor Vehicle Collision, Fermor
November 19, 2021	Hit & Run, Oakbank
November 21, 2021	Request for Assistance, Unknown Call, Hwy 15 Driving the Wrong Way Hwy 15
November 22, 2021	Stolen Vehicle Transcona Commercial Alarm Hillside Road Welfare Check, Heatherdale Road Drug Overdose Anola
November 23, 2021	Criminal Harassment, Oakbank Fraud, Garvin, Mb. Theft of RV, Anola Suspicious Person, Transcona

It would not surprise me if the RM of Springfield stopped publishing the detailed Police Report on their agendas in the future due to my analysis of the calls. In addition to the above Springfield Police Service calls dispatched by the RCMP, I also noted on November 23rd. the Springfield Police Service attended a disturbance and a break and enter in Transcona that were **NOT** dispatched by the RCMP as well as an Abandoned Vehicle in Birds Hill Park which technically is not in the RM of Springfield. **NOTE: While the RM of Springfield on its western boundary abuts Transcona, the RCMP and the Springfield Police Service are both aware of the boundary between the two. If something is listed as Transcona, I believe it truly is Transcona which is part of the City of Winnipeg. The RM of Springfield and the City of Winnipeg, to the best of my knowledge, did not have and do not have a mutual aid agreement in place. Similarly Fermor Avenue forms part of the Highway No. 1 system but when described as Fermor Avenue, one would suppose that is within the City of Winnipeg limits as beyond that, it is known as No. 1 Highway or the TransCanada Highway. Again, both police services would be aware of the boundaries and correct terms for the routes in question. The nature of the calls above would suggest that they were the result of 911 calls that go directly to the call centre in, I believe, Brandon, and are then forwarded to the RCMP call centre in D Division that dispatches members from the appropriate detachment. I would suggest not many residents of Springfield would check the RM Web Site for the telephone number of the Springfield Police Service before making these calls. Rather the call would be made to 911 which dispatches RCMP.**

The point of this report is that ratepayers of the RM of Springfield are paying in their income tax for, among other things, the services of the RCMP, the official Federal Police Service, that is then using the Springfield Police Service to respond to their calls. Ratepayers are paying over half a million annually to have the services of the Springfield Police Service to enforce their own by-laws and maintain law and order in the RM of Springfield. As I see it, they are paying FOR A SERVICE THAT IS NO LONGER DEDICATED TO THE SAFETY NEEDS OF THE RESIDENTS OF SPRINGFIELD but rather is being used by the RCMP in lieu of their own members responding to 911 calls, sometimes not even in the RM of Springfield.

CONCLUSION

The current Council is not making decisions that are in the best interests of ratepayers. In terms of policing, ratepayers are paying twice, in my opinion, for the same amount of service. They pay for the RCMP in their income taxes and any other federal tax while paying for the Springfield Police Service in their property taxes. The Springfield Police Service are being used to do the work of the RCMP, and not always, it would seem, within the municipality rather than being available during their shifts to deal with municipal by-laws and patrol the municipality as a policing presence to deter crime. Our industrial area off Gunn Road, which is responsible for a significant portion of taxes collected by the Municipality, should be regularly patrolled in particular to reduce the amount of crime experienced historically by businesses in that area. While I have always been a staunch supporter of the Springfield Police Service, in view of the agreement this Police Board and Council have made with the RCMP Oakbank Detachment, I now believe it should be discontinued if only to force the RCMP to provide sufficient complement of officers to service Springfield and the remainder of the area they serve.

When it comes to following their own Development Plan and Zoning By-law, again they have "dropped the ball", locating what are clearly industrial/commercial uses on land zoned Agricultural surrounded by Rural Residential and I cite as examples the Berger Peat Processing Plant which uses enormous volumes of water at its peak operation, and the Parrish & Heimbecker Grain Storage facility, marring the otherwise tranquil landscape south of Highway 15 on Poplar Road, right next to our two new municipal wells and adjacent to a number of residences that now have powerful lights lighting up the night and day 24/7 with a very large loop track spotted with cars waiting to be filled and shunted back on to the main track. LIGHT AND NOISE POLLUTION. Nowhere in the Municipality is safe from the decisions of this Council. CanWhite Sands in Vivian will have the same effect and will suck enormous amounts of potable water from the aquifer that serves not only Springfield but Brokenhead, Reynolds, Ste. Anne, Steinbach, Hanover, Woodridge, etc. to the U.S. and Ontario borders and beyond. While the water will be returned to the aquifer, it has now been exposed to the air and potential contaminants. This is a disaster about to happen! PLEASE CONTACT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT AND APPLICABLE AGENCY THAT YOU CAN THINK OF TO STOP THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BRANCH FROM APPROVING THIS APPLICATION.